

## Reflection Saturday Week 33 Feast of the Presentation – 2020

**The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.** In unity with Eastern Christianity, and commemorating the dedication in 543 of the New Basilica of Saint Mary, built next to the Temple at Jerusalem, this feast celebrates Mary's "dedication" of herself to God from her infancy, inspired by the Holy Spirit, whose grace had filled her ever since her immaculate conception.

Today is also a special day for the Assumptionists because it was on 21<sup>st</sup> November 1880 that our founder the venerable Fr Emmanuel d'Alzon died. It almost seems as though he chose to die on a feast of Our Lady and that, on the day she was presented to God, our Founder presented himself to the God he loved so deeply. There is no doubt that Assumptionists believe that Mary, the mother of Jesus and our mother, kept a close eye on our founder. He named his Congregation after her because someone bought a school in his name in Nimes and the school's name was The Assumption. So later, when he founded the Congregation, he called us Augustinians of the Assumption. Augustinians because he adopted the rule of St Augustine and the Augustinian habit. It was at a time when religious orders were just returning to France having been expelled earlier.

Emmanuel d'Alzon had a triple love: the love of Jesus Christ and, what Jesus Christ loved most, the Church and Mary the mother of Jesus. He adopted as a motto the words from the Our Father: *Thy Kingdom Come*. It is rather appropriate therefore that we celebrate the Feast of Christ the King, tomorrow. This is a truly blessed moment for us, for the Church and for Mary our Mother.

It is wonderful to hear Jesus calling everyone his brothers and sisters without exception or qualification because Emmanuel d'Alzon also believed that everyone was a brother or sister of the Lord and his great desire was to help them realise this and recognise the honour and dignity with which God looked upon them. He wanted to help them speak the words of Mary in the Magnificat, saying with heartfelt love "My soul, too, glorifies the Lord." Even when we fail to live up to the standards of a follower of Jesus, our souls continually praise God just like the soul of Mary; only we do it less well. Let us like Mary, like our founder Emmanuel d'Alzon and like the Church in this eucharist, present ourselves to God with great praise and great joy on our lips and in our hearts.

**What medication does a snake take before giving a presentation?** An antihisstamine.

### Founders

**Newspaper report:** IKEA founder Ingvar Kamprad has died aged 91. His funeral procession will be a winding path that takes about 2 hours with a pause in the middle for refreshments. We also seem to have an extra coffin handle and a handful of screws.